

of the 1957 edition of the SIC Manual and its supplement, issued in 1963. However, because in some instances a more detailed classification is required for census purposes than is available in the SIC Manual, additional kinds of business have been identified within the SIC categories.

It should be noted that kind-of-business classifications are not interchangeable with commodity classifications. Most businesses sell a number of kinds of commodities. The kind-of-business code assigned generally reflects either the individual commodity or commodity group which is the primary source of the establishment's receipts or some mixture of commodities which characterize the establishment's business. Thus, the classification of establishments by kind of business generally does not make it possible to determine either the number of establishments handling a particular commodity or the sales of that commodity. For example, the "food group" classification excludes stores selling some food if the sale of food is not the primary source of receipts; moreover, even though stores are classified as "food stores" some of their receipts may be derived from the sale of nonfood products. (Some indication of the extent to which various broad groups of commodities or lines of merchandise are characteristic of different kinds of business is available in the Census of Business reports on Merchandise Line Sales. These data are presented in Vol. 1

Summary Statistics, and in separate reports of the subject preprint series, BC-63-RS.)

As noted in the Introduction under "Method of Enumeration," the 1963 census data are based on reports from two different sources, for "employer" and "nonemployer" establishments. "Nonemployer" establishments were classified on the basis of information supplied on the 1963 Federal income tax returns. Because of the nature of the information available on the tax returns, the kind-of-business classifications for these

establishments represent primarily a "self-designation" by the establishments.

"Employer" establishments, on the other hand, were canvassed by mail and required to complete report forms especially designed for this census. These reports on census forms include information on sales by merchandise lines and other classification data which make possible a more uniform system of classification.

Descriptions of those kinds of business for which data are provided follow.

Lumber, Building Materials, Hardware, Farm Equipment Dealers (SIC Major Group 52)
Establishments primarily selling lumber, building materials, the basic lines of hardware, paint, wallpaper, glass, electrical supplies, roofing materials, and other supplies and equipment for home construction. Establishments primarily selling farm equipment are also included. Establishments in this group sell to contractors as well as to the general public.
Lumber yards (Part of SIC 521)—Establishments primarily selling lumber, millwork, and other building materials, such as brick and tile, cement, cinder blocks, sand and gravel, fencing materials, storm doors and windows, wall board, and roofing materials. Establishments are included in this category only if their receipts from sales of lumber and millwork are one-third or more of their total receipts.

Building materials dealers (Part of SIC 521)—Establishments primarily selling either a specialized or a general line of building materials. If lumber and millwork are sold, receipts from sales of these commodities are less than one-third of total receipts.

Heating, plumbing equipment dealers (SIC 522)—Establishments primarily selling plumbing supplies and heating and air-conditioning equipment. Establishments primarily engaged in installation on a contract basis or in repairs are not included in the Census of Business.

Paint, glass, wallpaper stores (SIC 523)—Establishments primarily selling paint, glass and wallpaper, or any combination of these lines. Establishments primarily engaged in installing glass (except auto glass) are not included in the Census of Business.

Electrical supply stores (SIC 524)—Establishments primarily selling electrical supplies, such as lighting fixtures, switches, cable, and fuse boxes for use in homes. Establishments primarily selling electrical appliances are included with "Furniture, Home Furnishings, Equipment Stores" (SIC major group 57).

Hardware stores (SIC 5251)—Establishments primarily selling a number of basic hardware lines, such as tools, builders' hardware, paint and glass, housewares and household appliances, cutlery, and roofing materials. These establishments may also sell farm implements.

Farm equipment dealers (SIC 5252)—Establishments primarily selling farm tractors, reapers, mowers, plows, wagons, and re-

lated farm equipment. These establishments may also sell a combination of basic lines of hardware, such as tools, builders'

hardware, housewares, cutlery, and related lines. General Merchandise Stores (SIC Major Group 53,

Except for "Nonstore Retailers")

This group includes all establishments within SIC major

group 53, "General Merchandise," except for "nonstore" establishments which for purposes of this publication are separately

classified. (See last group below.) In the 1958 Census of

Business, this group (SIC 53) included a classification, "general

stores." This classification has now been eliminated. The

stores previously classified as "general stores" are now defined

as "grocery stores" if their sales of food accounted for 50

percent or more of total receipts, and as "general merchandise

stores" if food sales accounted for less than 50 percent of

total receipts.

Department stores (SIC 531)—Establishments normally employ-

ing 25 people or more and engaged in selling some items in

each of the following lines of merchandise:

1. Furniture, home furnishings, appliances, radio and TV

sets.

2. A general line of apparel for the family.

3. Household linens and dry goods.

An establishment with total sales of less than \$5 million,

in which sales of any one of these groupings is greater than

80 percent of total sales, is not classified as a department

store.

An establishment with total sales of \$5 million or more

is classified as a department store even if sales of one of the

groups described above is more than 80 percent of total sales,